(b) if so, what are the details of such measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) At the Aid India Consortium meeting convened by World Bank in Paris in June 1989, Member appreciated the progress achieved by Government of India in reducing the budgetary deficit, Government has initiated several measures to contain budgetary deficit within prudent limit. These includes measures to maintain the buoyancy of tax revenue collection, prevent evasion of taxes and contain the growth of low priority and non-developmental expenditure.

Bank Loans to Farmers in West Bengal

1982. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about Rs. 12,000 crores are handled in West Bengal by about 3000 branches of commercial banks in the State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers get only Rs. 12 crore from the banks out of this amount; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported that as at the end of December, 1988 there were 3790 branches of commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks functioning in West Bengal. The aggregate deposits with these branches stood at Rs. 14206.51 crores as on the last Friday of Dec., 1988 while their outstanding advances were Rs. 7152.21 crores giving a Credit Deposit Ratio of 50.34 per cent.

(b) and (c) According to information available from RBI, the outstanding advances of scheduled commercial banks to Agriculture in West Bengal has increased from Rs. 368.00 crores as on the last Friday of December, 1985 to Rs. 421.23 crores as on the last Friday of December, 1986 and further to Rs. 449.45 crores as on the last Friday of June, 1987 (latest available).

Problems faced by Jute Industry

1983. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that jute industry in our country has been ailing since long;

(b) if so, what are the basic reasons for such sustained ailment; and

(c) what remedial steps have been taken|proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUM. SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The Jute Industry has been passing through a difficult period for the last several years mainly on account of wide disparity between cost of production and selling prices and competition from synthetics and Bangladesh. The jute mills are continuing to face liquidity problems arising out of adverse trading conditions due to imbalance between cost of production and sale price realisation. However, on its part, Govt. have taken various steps to improve the overall functioning of jute industry which include:—

(i) regular purchases of jute bags for packing foodgrains through DGS&D at cost-plus prices;

(ii) enforcement of mandatory use of jute goods by certain specified end-user industries;

(iii) introduction of Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme and special Jute Development Fund;

(iv) implementation of internal Market Assistance Scheme and External Market Assistance Scheme;

(v) adoption of new STC|JMDC loss-sharing strategy for capturing global tenders;